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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Electric iron comprising
a housing ~~(4)~~ and
a soleplate ~~(2)~~ in which at least one outlet opening ~~(10;15;34;45)~~ is provided,
means ~~(8;10;28;39;43)~~ for generating a fine liquid spray or foam or steam, and
means ~~(5)~~ for delivering said generated fine liquid spray or foam or steam
through said outlet opening,
characterized in that the iron further comprises
detection means ~~(12;14;22;23;35;36;49)~~ for non-thermally detecting the presence
of a surface ~~(7a)~~ in the proximity of the soleplate ~~(2)~~ and for generating a detection signal in
response to said detection, and
control means ~~(6)~~ for controlling the delivery of said fine liquid spray or foam or
steam in response to said detection signal.
2. (Original) Electric iron as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the detection means
comprise a movable spring-loaded contact element (12), said element (12) activating a switch
(14) for generating said signal when the soleplate is positioned against said surface (7a) and
thus depresses said element (12).
3. (Original) Electric iron as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the detection means
comprise resilient means (22) provided between the housing (1) and the soleplate (2), said
soleplate being movable with respect to said housing against the force of said resilient means,
and comprise a switch (23) provided between the soleplate and the housing for generating said
signal, said switch (23) being activated when the iron is positioned against said surface (7a) with
a force applied to the housing which is greater than the force of said resilient means (22).

4. (Currently Amended) Electric iron as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the detection means comprise a light emitter ~~(35)~~ and a photo-sensitive receiver ~~(36)~~ for receiving a reflected light beam ~~(R)~~ from the emitter when the soleplate ~~(2)~~ is in the proximity of said surface ~~(7a)~~, said surface serving as a reflection surface for the light beam, said receiver ~~(36)~~ generating said signal in response to the reflected light beam ~~(R)~~.

5. (Original) Electric iron as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the detection means comprise a pressure detector (4) for detecting the pressure of the generated steam in a flow path (41) between the means (39) for generating said steam and said at least one outlet opening (45) in the soleplate (2), said signal being generated in response to the pressure when the soleplate is in the proximity of said surface (7a) and when said signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value, said iron further comprising a supply duct (47) for adding an additive liquid to the generated steam in said flow path (41), said supply duct (47) having a valve (48) which opens when said signal exceeds said predetermined threshold value.

6. (Currently Amended) Electric iron as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the iron comprises motion detection means ~~(50)~~ for generating a motion signal in response to a motion of the iron, said control means ~~(6)~~ enabling said detection signal in response to said motion signal.

7.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) Electric iron as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the iron comprises motion detection means (50) for generating a motion signal in response to a motion of the iron, said control means (6) enabling said detection signal in response to said motion signal.

10. (Previously Presented) Electric iron as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the iron comprises motion detection means (50) for generating a motion signal in response to a motion

of the iron, said control means (6) enabling said detection signal in response to said motion signal.

11. (Currently Amended) Electric iron as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the iron comprises motion detection means ~~(50)~~ for generating a motion signal in response to a motion of the iron, said control means ~~(6)~~ enabling said detection signal in response to said motion signal.

12. (Previously Presented) Electric iron as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the iron comprises motion detection means (50) for generating a motion signal in response to a motion of the iron, said control means (6) enabling said detection signal in response to said motion signal.

13. (New) An electric iron, the electric iron including a soleplate and an outlet opening associated with the soleplate, the electric iron comprising:

- provision means for providing at least one ironing substance via the outlet opening;
- detection means for non-thermally detecting the presence of a surface proximate to the soleplate; and,
- control means for controlling said provision means responsive to said detection means non-thermally detecting the presence of the surface.

14. (New) An electric iron as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising motion detection means for detecting a motion of the iron, and wherein, responsive to said motion detection means detecting the motion, said provision means is further controlled in providing the at least one ironing substance via the outlet opening.

15. (New) An electric iron as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said provision means is configured to provide, via the outlet opening, one or more of (a) steam, (b) foam, (c) additive liquid, (d) water, or (e) a combination of "(a)"-"(d)".

16. (New) An electric iron as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said provision means comprises generating means for generating the at least one ironing substance and delivering means for delivering the so-generated, at least one ironing substance.